

dark. An older specimen, also before birth, and obtained on Feb. 6th, 1912, was 17 inches long and the color of the young specimen was now replaced by deep black, but becoming paler down the sides. Adult specimens of various whales show at times increase in white coloration. Thus the Humpback (*Megaptera*) is black above, but white beneath, varied with black spots, but sometimes the black underneath decreases to an indefinite marbled arrangement, or, in some cases, the black disappears and the under surface is white. The huge rorquals or fin-back whales show similar variations, and Mr. Lydderker surmises that age or special food causes this tendency to albinism. The Right whale of the Arctic is very black above, but white beneath and where the two tints meet there occur irregular patches of white extending into the black color. The Killer whale or Grampus is black above, but in one specimen I observed a white patch above each eye, or there may be a white patch below the eye and a transverse crescentic patch of white behind the huge erect dorsal fin.

It is hardly necessary to point out that the albino porpoise above described recalls the small beluga or white-whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*, Pallas), which is creamy white all over and abounds in the mouth of the River St. Lawrence and round Hudson's Straits into Hudson's Bay, and along Baffin's Land and as far north as Barrow Straits.*

Mr. A. P. Low expressed the view that the white-whale industry might become an important one in many places in Hudson Bay and Straits owing to its abundance, and the Hudson Bay Company, as well as the Eskimo, have long taken considerable numbers for oil and leather, while the boiled skin is a native dainty and the dark colored meat is also used as food.

It is impossible in this place to enter into the somewhat profound and complicated subject of the origin of albinos, and to define the essential differences which divide them from merely pale examples, or seasonal varieties. Melanism can be explained partly at any rate, as due to environment, but albinism is no doubt due to causes which are congenital, possibly pathological. Merely white varieties are not albinos, and the so-called albino skunk, reported as seen last year in Delaware Park, near Buffalo, was not an albino.

Curator Crandall, who saw it, described it as blue, with apparently no black or white hairs intermingled and it may be compared to the blue variety of Arctic fox, which is blue, or rather slate grey, all the year round, and less numerous in the more northerly regions than in the more southerly. In the

*Lilljeborg states that the young beluga is greyish-brown in color.